

FROM THE FORETHOUGHT NOTEBOOKS

By Earl M. Pratt, Oak Park, Illinois.

THE TELEPHONE GIRL.

I.
Remember I am thy telephone girl—
Not "Flossie" or "Lizzie" or "Madge" or
"Pearl".

II.
Thou shalt speak plainly and loud and
clear,
And call the number so I may hear.

III.
Thou shalt hang up thy receiver when
Thou hearest: "Busy—please call again."

IV.
Thou shalt be patient; thy temper halt;
Remember buzzing is not my fault.

V.
Thou shalt not doubt what I tell to thee—
'Twill only double the work for me.

VI.
Thou shalt be gentle and kind in speech,
Nor swear, nor mutter, nor rudely
screech.

VII.
Thou shalt not flirt, nor request a date,
Nor show thyself such an addlepate.

VIII.
Thou shalt not, if on a party line,
Give heed to signals that are not thine.

IX.
Thou shalt, when told to put in a dime,
Drop it in quickly, and not lose time.

X.
Thou shalt not murmur, nor make com-
plaint,
But act as if thou wert all a saint.

THE SUBSCRIBER.

The telephone subscriber, at the ending
of the year,
Took down his 'phone receiver, and put
it to his ear.

"Hello," he said, "O Central Girl, connec-
tions do not break;
I have some resolutions I am just about
to make.

"Hereafter, when I'm calling for a num-
ber I shall not
Fly into bitter tantrums if the number
can't be got.

"Hereafter, when you signal, 'Line is
busy, call again,'
I shall not be so foolish as to blame it on
you then.

"Hereafter, when the telephone begins to
ring full strong,
I shall answer in a hurry, lest I keep you
waiting long.

"Hereafter, when I make a call and am
delayed a bit,
I shall not flash like fury, nor act as if
a fit.

"Hereafter, when I'm angry when the
talking is not clear,
I shall not yelp profanely till I blister up
your ear.

"Hereafter, when another on my party-
line is called,
I shall not rubber, either, till the line of
talk is stalled.

"Hereafter—O, hereafter, Central Girl, I'll
try to be
Just as mild and calm and pleasant as
you always are with me."

Fed on Monster Dumpling

An aged citizen of North Carolina tells the story of the greatest apple dumpling ever made. His home is in Halifax county, where, prior to 1840, there was a voting precinct known by the odd name of "Dumpling Town." In 1840, when William Henry Harrison was elected president, after a most exciting campaign, Dumpling Town had exactly 114 voters, and every man of them cast his ballot for Harrison.

The people of the small but prosperous town of Scotland Neck, in the county, also showed their appreciation of the unanimous vote of Dumpling Town by a generous and whimsical gift. Two days and a night were consumed in building a big dumpling, which weighed 114 pounds, one pound for each vote cast at Dumpling Town. This monster of a dumpling was put in a sack, supported by a tripod, and lowered into an immense iron kettle.

It required two days and a night to cook it properly. Then it was lifted out and placed in a specially made bowl cut from the trunk of an enormous cypress tree, and round it were placed 114 dumplings of the usual size. A band of music and fifty wagons were sent to Dumpling Town, and in these wagons were taken to Scotland Neck the 114 true blue Harrison men and their families.

There was great cheering when they arrived at Scotland Neck, and the guests cheered themselves when they saw the feast prepared for them, for besides the dumplings no end of good things filled many tables in the spacious warehouse, and the feasting and fun lasted the rest of the day and nearly all night.

A barrel of the best molasses was used as sauce for the big dumpling and the hungry people ate it all.—Youth's Companion.

Said Finnigin to Flannigan

Superintindint wuz Flannigan;
Boss uv the siction wuz Finnigin.
Wainiver the kyars got offen the thrack
An' muddled up things 't th' divil an'
back.

Finnigin writ it to Flannigan,
Aft'er the wrick wuz all on agin;
That is, this Finnigin
Reported to Flannigan.

Whin Finnigin first went to Flannigan
He writed tin pages, did Finnigin;
An' he tould jist how the smash oc-
curred.

Full many a tajas, blunderin' wurred
Did Finnigin write to Flannigan
Aft'er the cars had gone on agin.
That wuz how Finnigin
Reported to Flannigan.

Now, Flannigan knowed more than Fin-
nigin—
He'd more idjucation, had Flannigan—
An' it wore 'm clane an' completely out
To tell what Finnigin writ about
In his writin' to Mister Flannigan;
So he writed back to Finnigin:
'Don't do sich a sin agin;
Make 'em brief, Finnigin!'

When Finnigin got this from Flannigan
He blushed rosy red, did Finnigin;

An' he said: "I'll gamble a whole month's
pa-ay
That it will be minny an' minny a da-ay
Befoere Sup'rindint—that's Flannig-
gan—
Gits a whack at this very same sin agin;
From Finnigin to Flannigan
Reports won't be long agin."

Wan da-ay on the siction of Finnigin,
On the road sup'rindintid by Flannigan.
A rail gave way on a bit av the curve,
An' some kyars went off as they made
the swerve.

"There's noobody hurted," sez Finnigin,
"But reports must be made to Flannig-
gan."
An' he winked at McGorrigan,
As married a Finnigin.

He was shantvin' thin, wuz Flannigan,
As minny a railroader's been agin,
An' the shmoky ol' lamp wuz burnin'
bright
In Finnigin's shanty all that night—
Bilin' down his report wuz Finnigin;
An' he writed this here: "Mister Flannig-
gan;
Off agin, on agin,
Gone agin—Finnigin."
—S. W. Gillian.

Wants Tip from the President.

The president received an earnest letter to-day from a man in Cork, Ireland.

"I am a large investor in American securities," he wrote, "and I hear disquieting rumors that you intend to send a special message to Congress urging a revision of the tariff. If you

do it I am a ruined man, for I am heavily loaded up with American stocks just now."

After begging the president to do nothing to disturb the tariff, "for my sake," the Cork man concluded: "If you must send such a message, please cable me several days in advance, so that I can unload."—Washington Correspondence New York World.

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The coming man seldom arrives on schedule time.

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